Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 6, as follows:

The Meters block 306 receives classified headers from the Classification Logic 305 and determines whether a packet should be dropped. That is, the Meters block 306 uses the isolated header values from the Classifier block 310 to increment memory values corresponding to various types of floods. It also checks whether any of the thresholds have been reached. If so, it updates the flood states. Depending on the state and the incoming packets header value, it lets the Decision Multiplexer 312 know if the packet needs to be dropped. It informs the Control and Statistics Block ~~308~~ <u>314</u> if a packet is being dropped so that the discard statistics can be updated.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 18, line 29, as follows:

Multicast <u>**Flood**</u> Meter 604: This block receives data from Layer 2 classifier and, if the packet is a Multicast packet, it increments the count for Multicast packet in that particular direction. If the count for Multicast packets in that direction reaches a preset thresholds, the Multicast Flood Meter ~~603~~ <u>604</u> changes the state of Multicast packets to blocked state in that direction for a certain predetermined time period.